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HAPPY HOMES PROJECT LAUNCHED!

A fund-raising dinner was organised by the Bangladeshi Friends of Action Aid Australia Inc to raise funds for the Action Aid project with the intention of acquiring land in the Dhaka region to build premises to house the project and to provide ongoing support for the more disadvantaged and street girls in Bangladesh. The aim of the project is to secure $800,000 in funding over three years. The dinner party was held in a prestigious venue at the New South Wales Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney on the 3rd of August 2010. Tickets were sold out and more than $45,000.00 dollars were raised. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO the Governor of New South Wales, was present as the Principal Guest and launched the project. There were many distinguished guests present at the dinner including Bangladesh High Commissioner H.E. Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury & Mrs. Chowdhury, the honourable Barbara Perry, MP. Minister for Local Government Justice and Mental Health, representing the premier. Mr. Anthony Robert MP. Representing the NSW leader of the opposition, the honourable Laurie Ferguson, MP, parliamentary secretary for citizenship and multicultural affairs representing the prime minister. The honourable Philip Ruddock, MP representing the leader of the opposition and Mrs Heather Ruddock. The honourable Meredith Bure man, president ACEID, and Shabnoor, film actress of Bnagladesh. The Honourable John Dowd, David Bitel and Abdul Hoque greeted and were welcoming all the guests. Mr John Dowd was the MC of the program and adroitly presented the whole program. HE Professor Marie Bashir launched the program and gave an inspiring short speech about the project then the speeches were given by HE Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury and other guests. During the dinner there was a video screening about the program recorded in Bangladesh. It was an excellent venue for this event, with a high quality sound system and HD screens which made the program so much more interesting and enjoyable. There was also a cultural program. It was a memorable night. The organisers are very happy with the grand success of this event and thanks to the participants and all Bangladeshi communities. Professor Dr. Sheik Shahidur Rahman (one of the organisers) could not attend to the program due to an accident; please pray for his speedy recovery. It was my great privilege to rally around the program.

Welcoming the guests.

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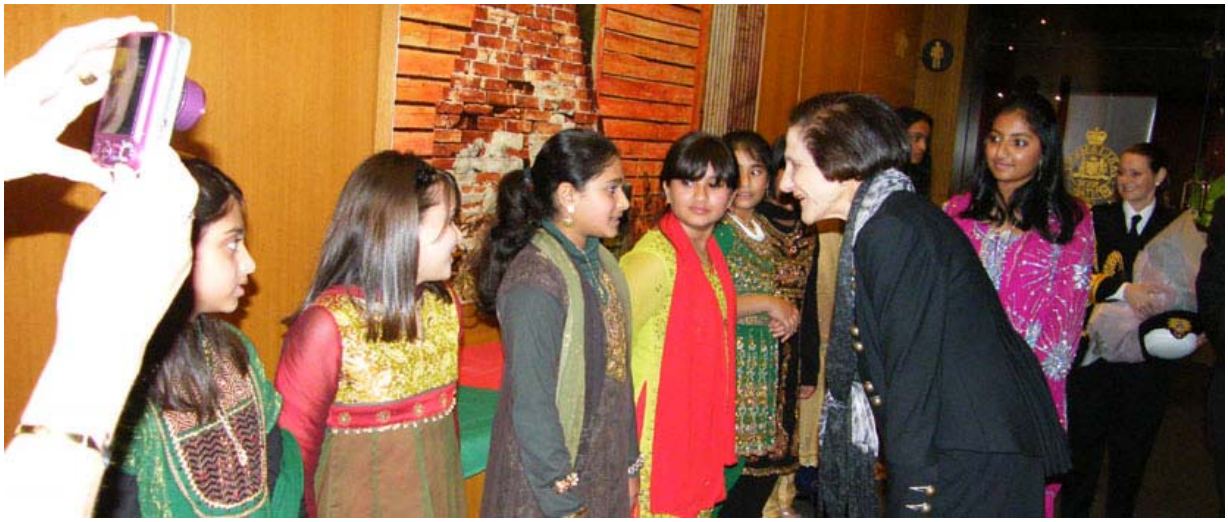
Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO the Governor of New South Wales, was greeted with flowers from Samira Zahan Hoque. From Left: The Honourable John Dowd AO QC, President of Action Aid Australia, Mrs John Dowd, Samira Hoque, Abdul Hoque, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO the Governor of New South Wales, David Bitel, Former President of the Refugee Council of Australia



The honourable Laurie Ferguson, MP, parliamentary secretary for citizenship and multicultural affairs, representing the prime minister.

The honourable Philip Ruddock, MP representing the leader of the opposition

Shabnoor, film actress of Bangladesh.

Barrister Dr. Sala uddin Ahmed.

From Left: Sayanthini, Meena Krishnamoorthy and Rubini, presented a dance drama.

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Welcoming the guests.

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The Honourable John Dowd AO QC, President of Action Aid Australia. MC of the program.

David Bitel, Barrister, Former President of the Refugee Council of Australia

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO the Governor of New South Wales

Bangladesh High Commissioner H.E. Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury

The honourable Barbara Perry, MP. Minister for Local Government Justice and Mental Health, representing the premier.

Mr. Anthony Robert MP. Representing the NSW leader of the opposition.

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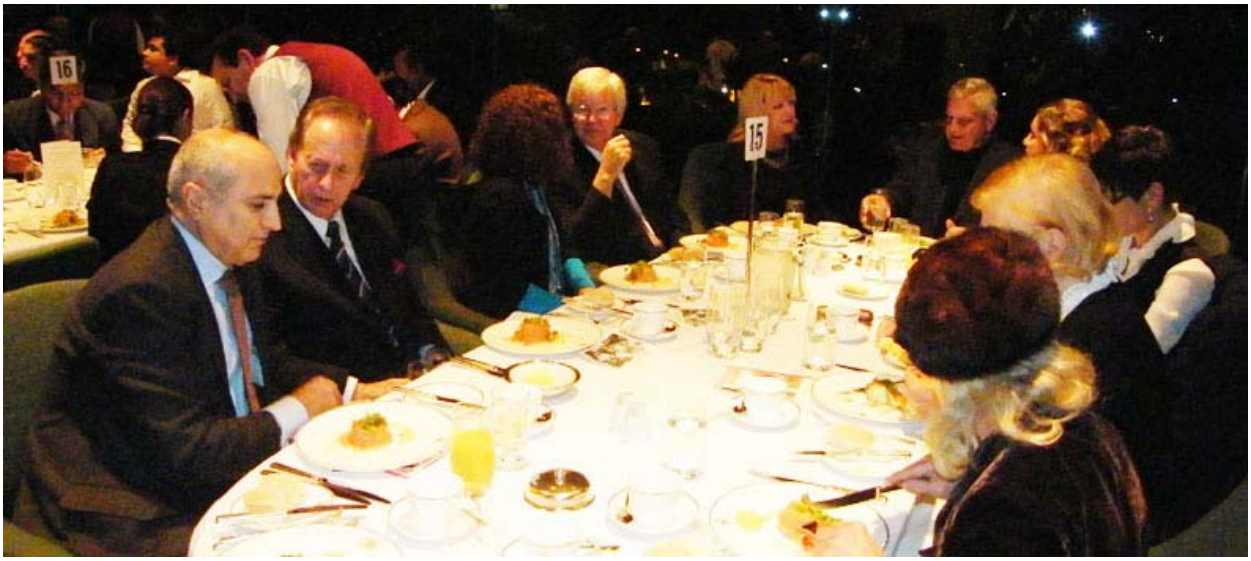
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